

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) and area business leaders gathered at Standard Insulating, Co. in Marcy today to highlight a new initiative that will increase access to capital for small businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to expand and create new jobs.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and are responsible for approximately 70% of all jobs created in this country,” **Arcuri said**. “In a time of lay-offs and cut hours, we must do everything possible to keep our economic engines running and support our local businesses. This is why it is so critical to get credit moving in the economy again and help our small businesses access the capital they need to grow. The SBA has already helped Standard Insulating and many other local entrepreneurs expand. In these hard economic times, we need to do everything we can to continue fighting for our small business community.”

Arcuri was joined at Standard Insulating today by representatives from the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, New York Business Development Corporation, and other local businesses that have participated in SBA loan programs. Additionally, Arcuri brought in the SBA Regional Office director to provide an in-depth explanation of the new initiative and how local small businesses can apply for SBA resources.

Earlier this week, President Obama announced that the SBA would revise its federal 7(a) and 504 loan programs, which provide businesses with financing to purchase equipment, restructure their debt, and undertake new construction and other critical operations. By the end of March, the U.S. Department of the Treasury will also begin to directly purchase up to \$15 billion in SBA-backed securities to unfreeze the credit market for small businesses and encourage small business lending by private institutions.

The President’s initiative also includes important accountability measures to ensure that these new regulations effectively help small businesses and increase the number of loans banks issue. For the first time, the Department of the Treasury will require the twenty-one largest banks receiving federal funds under this plan to report how much lending to small businesses they do every month.

Arcuri spoke at Standard Insulating, Co, a family-run business that received two SBA 504 loans to purchase new facilities and expand the business. Standard Insulating currently employs over

25 full-time employees and has projected revenues of \$6 million in 2009. For information on how to apply for an SBA loan or seek additional resources, area businesses may visit <http://www.sba.gov/> or contact the SBA Syracuse Regional Office directly at 315-471-9393.

To further help local small businesses facing economic uncertainty, Arcuri supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Recovery Bill), signed into law last month, which includes bonus depreciation provisions to allow small businesses to continue writing-off their equipment costs at a faster rate. Businesses will immediately be allowed to claim 50% of the cost of depreciable property on their tax returns, which includes equipment, tractors, wind turbines, solar panels, and computers. This will allow small businesses to recover more quickly from new equipment costs and turn their focus on providing enhanced goods and services to customers.

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